

CONSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUMS

MEMO NO. 61

DATE OF ISSUE

DECEMBER 2010

SUBJECT

PAVING ON WET OR FROZEN SURFACES

Mix must not be placed on a wet or frozen surface. Mix that is placed on a wet or frozen surface will cool very quickly because of rapid heat transfer from the mix to the underlying surface. The required density will be difficult to achieve because of the low mix temperature. As a result of the lack of compaction and corresponding high air void content, the pavement will perform poorly. Sometimes, the pavement “sweats” as a result of the dew point exceeding the pavement temperature. This generally occurs on a warm day immediately following a cold day.

It is the contractor’s responsibility to start and stop the mixing plant. However, production should stop when rain starts. Production should not start if the surface is frozen. Loaded trucks may be placed if standing water is not visible on the existing surface. Tickets issued for loads that were not placed are void and an appropriate notation made on the ticket.

Placement of mix under these conditions does not relieve the contractor of the responsibility for all mix to be in satisfactory condition. If the contractor insists on laying mix contrary to this memorandum, issue an Avoid Verbal Order (AVO) immediately; informing the contractor that the mix placed is rejected.

Date of original issue 12/10

Frances J. Hood, P.E.
State Construction Engineer